Exploring of mineral wealth in sea-bed

1317. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian ships have been engaged in the Indian coastal waters to explore the mineral wealth in the sea-bed; and

(b) if so, what results have been achieved through such explorations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, At present Geological Survey of India is engaged in the search for minerals in sea-bed in the Exclusive Economic Zone of India with its 3 vessels. As a result of these surveys presence of important minerals from economic point of view ilmenite, monazite, rutile, zircon, sillimanite, garnet etc. have been recorded in sea-bed off Puri, Gopalpur, Nizampanam, Ratnagiri, Checara etc. Resource estimation is in progress.

Allotment of flats to retired/retiring Government servants under HUDCO scheme

1318. SHRI SYED AHMAD HASHMI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 728 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 22nd November, 1985 and state.

(a) the number of applicants, who have been allotted flats so far under the HUDCO scheme 1979 for retired/retiring Government servants, out of the 367 applications invited in April-May, 1985;

(b) what is the number of flats out of 500 flats which are ready for allotment to the applicants who retired upto December, 1985, category-wise;

(c) whether the Delhi Development Authority have invited options through advertisements on 10th February, 1986 for retiring persons who are registered under the new pattern Housing scheme of 1979 for allotment of new flats in Vikaspuri GD-II.

(d) if so, the reasons for inviting options when the backlog have not yet been cleared even after the passage of 3-4 months as promised earlier; and

(e) by when D.D.A. propose to allot flats to all the applicants who retired upto December, 1985 and registered under the Re-registration scheme in April-May, 1985?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) No allotment has so far been made to the retired/retiring Government servants under the HUDCO Scheme from whom applications were received in April-May, 1985, totalling 1378 consists of 367 applications from LIG, 971 from MIG and 40 from Janta were received.

(b) About 500 flats (MIG, LIG and EWS/Janta) are likely to be allotted by draw of lots to be held in March, 1986.

(c) and (d) In the advertisement of 10-2-86 no fresh options were called for. Only the intending registrants under the retired/retiring persons category were required to give their consent for allotment of some flats available at Vikaspuri. The intention was to meet the requirements of already registered persons and not to increase the size of the list of 1378 persons mentioned against (a) above.

(e) DDA proposes to accommodate about 500 registrants under MIG, LIG and Janta through draw to be held in March, 1986.

Cost of production of steel

1319. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any review regarding the production cost of steel in the country; and

(b) if so, what methods are being evolved to bring down production cost and produce steel at prices comparable with that at international levels?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) In 1982, the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices had carried out a study about the production cost of the SAIL steel plants.

(b) Cost of production is expected to be reduced through higher production and productivity, better utilisation of capacities, better technological norms, saving in energy utilisation and containment of labour costs.

The following measures, some of which are of a continuing nature have been taken by SAIL to control the costs of production:—

(1) There is regular monitoring of cost of production both at the corporate and plant level Variances are brought to the notice of management and discussed for corrective action.

(2) The Corporate Management has laid greater emphasis on the need to reduce cost of production by stressing necessity for optimal utilisation of available sources within the organisation.

(3) Costs like overtime, demurrage are being controlled through strict monetary limits.

(4) SAIL has drawn up programme of energy conservation. These have been discussed at the Board level for implementation.

These efforts are in the direction of bringing all round cost consciousness among officers and workers at all levels.

Survey of disabled population in India

1320. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have made any survey in regard to disabled population in the country suffering from one or the other disabilities;

(b) if so, what is the number of such disabled persons in each State and Union Territory; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to rehabilitate such persons?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Statements I and II are laid on the Table of the House.

Statement-I

No of Physically Handicapped persons having at least the of the physical disabilities ***

*By applying prevalance rate to population of census 1981.

**Physical disability covers: (i) visuals; (ii) hearing and/or speech; and (iii) locomotor disability.

State/U.T.	No of handiccapped persons (figures in lakhs)		
	Rural	Urban	Total
1	2	3	4
1. Andhra Pradesh	9.96	2.22	12.18
2. Assam	1.48	0.16	1.64